

DATE: May 20, 2005

TO: Washington State Schools

FROM: Janna Bardi, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Provision of Information about Meningococcal Disease

In 2005 the Washington State Legislature passed a law requiring schools to provide meningococcal information to parents/guardians of students beginning with sixth grade entry. This legislation is effective July 1, 2005.

This complete text of the law can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2005-2006>

This legislation amends RCW 28A.210.080 adding section 2:

“(2)(a) Beginning with sixth grade entry, every public and private school in the state shall provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal disease and its vaccine at the beginning of every school year. The information about meningococcal disease shall include:

- (i) Its causes and symptoms, how meningococcal disease is spread, and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children; and
 - (ii) Current recommendations from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the receipt of vaccines for meningococcal disease and where the vaccination can be received.
- (b) This subsection shall not be construed to require the department of health or the school to provide meningococcal vaccination to students
- (c) The department of health shall prepare the informational materials and shall consult with the office of the superintendent of public instruction
- (d) This subsection does not create a private right of action.

The Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program has compiled the following resources to assist schools in meeting this requirement:

- Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program:
Meningococcal disease information:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/meningococcal.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
Meningococcal vaccine information:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-mening.pdf>
Disease Information:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm
Fact sheets:
http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.pdf

- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center
Two sided flyer on that could be given to parents:
http://www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_mening_tear.pdf
- National Meningitis Association -
Resources for schools to provide meningococcal information to parents:
<http://www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm>

If you need more information or have further questions about meningitis, meningococcal vaccine, or would like assistance in putting together information for your students, please contact:

Ruth McDougall at: 360-236-3760 *or* Michele Perrin at 360-236-3720
e-mail Ruth.McDougall@doh.wa.gov e-mail Michele.Perrin@doh.wa.gov

Your local health department is also an excellent source of information regarding immunization issues.

Thank you for your partnership and effort in assuring that Washington students are fully informed about meningococcal disease, and how to prevent it through vaccination.